

Latin America  
Specialty Group

# CLAG/LASG NEWSLETTER

Conference of Latin American Geography (CLAG) and AAG's Latin America Specialty Group (LASG)

*Elise Arellano-Thompson and Beth Tellman – Co-Editors*

## CLAG 2023 – TUCSON, ARIZONA

Well over 100 conference attendees converged in Tucson, Arizona for this year's Conference of Latin American Geography. Many thanks to Kevin, Margaret, Shelby, Amanda, Diana, and the helping students of the University of Arizona for organizing the event!



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## LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

KRISTEN CONWAY-GÓMEZ

January 2, 2023

!Prospero Año Nuevo! I write with my best wishes for a healthy, prosperous 2023. While as many of us as are able are preparing to gather in Tucson in the coming days for CLAG 2023 I am looking forward to the opportunity to celebrate Latin American geography and rekindle relations in person that have been put on hold for all our safety over the past two plus years. The UA Colectivo has put together a wonderful program and we'll all be rewarded for their perseverance and hard work with a stimulating meeting.

As an organization we've weathered the storms presented us over the past nearly three years with grace and strength. We've had virtual unico LiveCLAG sessions, festive awards ceremonies, and important board meetings that have kept us connected and active. I am grateful to such a resilient, dedicated, and creative body of geographers who have participated in ways large and small, visible and not visible to get us to this point. !Mil gracias a tod@s! You and your efforts guarantee that CLAG remains the vibrant professional organization and touchstone it is for each of us.

Financially, we remain an active organization on solid standing, which is a precious positive. We plan to offer field work support this year as we hopefully head into a period of more freedom of movement. I know I always look forward to reports from the field from our up-and-coming scholars with details of their exciting work. Speaking of young scholars, this year we have been able to offer travel support to undergraduate students who are presenting posters at CLAG. Please make time in your conference schedule to visit their posters and support the next generation. For future meetings, consider encouraging your students to participate in the next CLAG.



This year JLAG welcomes two new Co-Editors-in-Chief, another first. Please join me in welcoming Martha Bell and Jessica Budds and thanking Johnny Finn for four outstanding years as editor-in-chief of JLAG. We have big plans for our journal, which continues to be an impressive source of scholarship we anticipate will reach an even greater global south audience with upcoming changes. This year we launch a new relationship with the University of Florida Press for our book series. With its four tracks – Frontiers / mobilities; Urban/Rural continuums; Ecology, Environment, Energy; and, Caribbean Geography – our book series is bound to draw attention and be a pillar of Latin American geography. If you have interest in serving as an editor, please reach out to the publications committee chair, Chris Gaffney (cg151@nyu.edu).

Thank you for your interest in and contributions to CLAG, continue to be safe and be in touch. These are challenging times, between climate change impacts, weather systems, a global pandemic, and airline woes that fact that we are able to hold CLAG this year is a real accomplishment. I look forward to seeing many of you soon in Tucson or at one of the virtual events of the conference.

Un abrazo fuerte, viagens felizes, Happy New Year,  
Kristen Conway-Gómez  
Professor  
Department of Geography and Anthropology, Cal  
Poly Pomona, Pomona, CA 91768

## LETTER FROM THE CLAG CHAIR

David Salisbury

Queridos CLAGistas and friends,

I began to write this on a 0° Christmas Eve morning from the wind whipped mountains of Appalachia as North America is gripped by a brutal winter freeze that simultaneously belies and underscores the climate crisis. If your families are like mine, the holidays are a time when extended family members ask you, the geography expert, questions about climate, culture, and connectivity. While some of these questions can be simplistic, they also emphasize the immediate relevance of CLAG expertise as geographers and Latin America specialists. We have so much to offer!

One of our best, Bill Denevan, reached out to me a couple months ago to share a paper he presented 50 years prior at the 1971 CLAG Meeting in Syracuse: “Development and the Imminent Demise of the Amazon Rain Forest.” The reaction to the published version was strong, he said, with some calling him, “... an extremist or, worse, a crackpot, including by several U.S. geographers, also in newspapers, especially in a Brazilian newspaper.” Of course, his prescient research increasingly, and unfortunately, approaches reality, as the Amazon, like many other regions in our hemisphere, transforms due to human action.

Another excellent CLAG researcher, 2021 Sauer honoree Bob Walker, made a suggestion last month that resonates with Bill’s, “I always thought it would be good for geographers to organize some sort of rapid response media team, a group that could act quickly when news about Latin America hit and get out in front on discussing the issue publicly... wondering if that’s something CLAG might be interested in... it would certainly enhance the image of geography in the public’s eye.” Bob lobs this our way as he declares he’s officially trekking (in Patagonia no less!) toward retirement, but his suggestion is well taken.



Yurua, Ucayali, Perú



My takeaways from these two conversations are twofold.

- 1) CLAG has an incredible amount to offer during these tumultuous and polarizing times, and should not shy away from controversy if the data delivers.
- 2) CLAG and CLAG researchers can take advantage of the rapid-fire news cycles and social media platforms to increase the impact and timeliness of our contributions.

Our CLAG expertise is largely in Latin America, a region in transition like the rest of the planet. For every piece of good news such as Argentina’s World Cup win in an epic final match, there is bad news like Peru’s recent struggles, Venezuela’s slow bleed, and the continuing crisis at the US/Mexico border to name a few. As geographers attuned to the relationship between nature and culture, our research is of critical importance. We should consider strategies to improve our communication and teaching as the climate crisis continues to exacerbate the challenges in Latin America and elsewhere across our earth.

Over the last few years the CLAG Board has already put some of these strategies into motion. First of

all, we have created a CLAG Social Media Coordinator position, now led by Dr. Catherine Nolin, recent CLAG Chair. We hope you will reach out to Catherine to amplify your important work via CLAG, but also don't hesitate to link to us in order to enrich and strengthen our CLAG community!

Second, we have a new CLAG Geography Latin American Geography Book Series with University of Florida Press. We currently seek applications to fill co-editorships for two-year terms to begin in February 2023 for the four thematic lines:

- Frontiers/Mobilities
- Urban/Rural Continuums
- Ecology, Environment, Energy
- Caribbean Geography

The Board's Publication Committee looks forward to your application (see pg. 52 for more details)!

Finally, we not only continue to enthusiastically support the field work (pgs. 32+) and conference attendance of our student scholars, but have also added poster awards (Pgs. 26-7) to motivate our members to use this medium particularly well suited for additional dissemination online, in print, and via translation with collaborators and communities in Latin America! The Poster Awards build on the Board's 2021 decision to add CLAG awards to recognize excellence in Teaching and also our Ascendentes (rising stars <8 years since PhD). Look at our impressive slate of 2023 honors on pg. 21!

I hope you were able to share your thoughts as we assembled at the University of Arizona in Tucson for our first in-person meeting since CLAG 2020 in Antigua, Guatemala. Gracias to the University of Arizona's colectivo, we had another amazing schedule, program, and selection of field trips to take advantage of. Looking at the snow capped range from the rooftop bar helped me reflect on my first CLAG experience, CLAG 2003, also in Tucson, twenty years ago. I remember well our border field trip then where I had the fortune to be stuffed in a van with redoubtable geographers like Marie Price and Antoinette WinklerPrins as we trundled toward la frontera under the expert guidance of Dan Arreola.

That trip also reminds me of driving across Texas from Austin in 2003, where I was taught by CLAG luminaries like Greg Knapp, Bill Doolittle, and Ken Young, all now, or shortly to be, emeritus. We raised a toast to these and other CLAG legends in Tucson, even as we sought inspiration from them to continue advancing our organization. One such toast went to my excellent predecessor, Catherine Nolin. Gracias Catherine! I would also like to share how much I appreciate working with Kristen Conway-Gómez, Executive Director, and our newly appointed Vice Chair, Sarah Blue. Ours is truly a wonderful organization!

¡Viva CLAG!

Saludos,

David

Chair CLAG

Associate Professor

Department of Geography, Environment, & Sustainability, University of Richmond



Vistas de 2023 field trips (desert, Tucson & taquería)

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## LETTER FROM THE LASG CHAIR

Andrea Marston

Dear LASG and CLAG readership,

Happy 2023, folks! I hope that everyone is starting off the new year well, perhaps even enjoying the first CLAG meeting in several years. Although I'm sad to be missing you all in Arizona, I'm hopeful that I'll catch you in a different four corners state – Colorado, where the AAG is scheduled in March. We at LASG are looking forward to welcoming back the CLAG-LASG social event, which will be held as per tradition after our joint business meeting. Please check your emails and the conference schedule for details in the next couple of months!

Since July 2022, I have had the pleasure of working with a new set of LASG officers: Amy Thompson is the new vice chair, and Nicholas Padilla is the new secretary-treasurer. We have been working together to gear up for the spring conference. You might have seen our call for applications for our annual awards, including the student field award, student paper award, and solidarity award. As in the last two years, the field study award is available to support a broad range of activities, including those that do not involve physical travel. The solidarity award, now in its second year, is intended to defray the costs of conference attendance. If you haven't seen the call for applications or had a chance to apply, never fear – the deadline for all three applications is not until February 24th. Check out our website

(<https://community.aag.org/lasg/home>) for more information about the awards and where to submit application materials. To help us review the award applications, we will also be seeking 3-4 people to serve as ad hoc reviewers in early March; if you are interested, please email me at [andrea.marston@rutgers.edu](mailto:andrea.marston@rutgers.edu).

Whether you are participating in the AAG virtually or in person, be sure to look out for LASG-sponsored sessions - I'll circulate the full list via email as soon as the conference schedule is released. Please also consider joining us for our annual business meeting – all are welcome to attend. Assuming all goes well, this year will also mark both my first and last times leading an in-person LASG business meeting, and I hope to physically meet many of you there.

Until then, best wishes for the new year!

Sincerely,

Andrea Marston  
Chair, LASG



## LETTER FROM THE CO-EDITORS - JLAG

Martha G. Bell and Jessica Budds

Dear Colleagues,

As Johnny Finn steps down as JLAG's editor-in-chief after four years, 2023 marks a new era for the journal, with our first co-editorship arrangement, and our first female editors-in-chief. Martha Bell is Associate Professor of Geography and Environment at Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú, where she researches historical landscapes and resource use, as well as climate change and disasters in Peru. Jessica Budds is Professor of Development Geography at Universität Bonn, where she works on the relationship between economic change, environmental governance and social development, with experience in Brazil, Chile, and Peru.



**Dr. Martha Bell, Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú**

First and foremost, we would like to acknowledge and thank the editors who have come before us, most recently Chris Gaffney and Johnny Finn, who have laid the solid foundations of the journal upon which we will be able to build. We have both served as associate editors alongside Chris and Johnny, since 2017 and 2020, respectively, and are grateful for the sense of teamwork they have fostered among the entire editorial and production group.

We also particularly appreciate some of the most recent innovations to the journal initiated by Johnny, including the possibility of translating selected articles from Spanish and Portuguese into English, and increasing the quantity of open access articles, both of which speak to the journal's wider mission to decolonize knowledge production. We are therefore very pleased that Johnny will stay on as associate editor going forward.

We are also grateful to the CLAG board for supporting our plans for the further development of JLAG, which we will introduce in our first editorial in the Spring 2023 issue. These will include initiatives to enhance the profile of the journal in an expanding and increasingly competitive market, such as fulfilling existing plans to get the journal indexed on major academic platforms, more assertively promoting new content on social media, and encouraging more special issues, similar to the one on Infrastructure and Latin American environmental geographies by guest editors Jessica Hope and Murat Arsel published in the December 2022 issue. Further raising the journal's profile over the long term will both help to attract the best quality submissions, and also to sustain the CLAG research and travel grant programs that are supported by JLAG revenue. We therefore invite all CLAG members to submit their work to the journal, and we sincerely thank all who have served as reviewers!

With our best wishes,  
Martha Bell  
Jessica Budds



**Dr. Jessica Budds, Universität Bonn**

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## NEW PUBLICATIONS

### NEW PUBLICATIONS: PAPERS

Abizaid, C., Coomes, O. T., & Takasaki, Y. (2022). Lifeways and currents of change in the Peruvian Amazon: A 1000 km boat journey down the Ucayali River. *Focus on Geography*.

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## Newly Completed Research Projects:

In November of 2023, PI Stephanie Spera and Co-I **David S. Salisbury** of the University of Richmond completed their 2019-2022 [NASA SERVIR](#) Amazonia US\$700+K grant: [Quantifying the Effects of Forest Cover Changes on Provisioning and Regulating Ecosystem Services in the Southwestern Amazon](#). Also participating on this project as members of the [Amazon Borderlands Spatial Analysis Team \(ABSAT\)](#) were Post-Doc Yunuen Reygadas, and CLAG members **Scott LaRocca, Leticia de Almeida Sbrocca, Katie Anderson, Elspeth Collard, Elena Durazo, Tereza Hernández, Violet Jetton, Sydney Thomas, Nathan Winiarski.**



### Project highlights (2020-2023) [www.absatrichmond.com](http://www.absatrichmond.com):

- 201 maps (over 149 of them transboundary) in Spanish, Portuguese, and English
- 33 posters in Spanish, Portuguese, and English
- 18 project presentations in Spanish, Portuguese, and English
- 6 Popular Press Articles including NASA's Image of the Day in October, 2022: ([Deforestation Follows a Road through Ucayali](#))
- 3 Dynamic Geo-Dashboards in Spanish and Portuguese
- 3 Peer reviewed publications
- 2 NASA Service Catalogue Reports
- 2 Tutorials (Mapping Forest Disturbances & Creating Rasters of ET, LST, and Precip.)
- 2 In-Person Workshops in the Amazon Borderlands
  - Ecosystem Services and Socio-Environmental Dynamics in the Indigenous Territories of the Ucayali-Yurúa-Juruá
    - 120 Indigenous participants from 13 ethnicities in the Acre, Brazil and Ucayali, Peru
  - Corredores Transfronterizos y Servicios Ecosistémicos de la Amazonía Sudoccidental
    - 42 GIS analysts from Peru and Brazil met in Pucallpa, Ucayali, Peru
- 1 Film about these two workshops in ([Español](#)) ([Português](#)) ([English](#))
- 2 Databases ([Annual forest conditions SWAmazon](#) and [GTASO database](#))

**NEW FILM:**

**Guatemalan film:** campus, classroom, conference tour

**José** by Li Cheng - was hosted by Christopher Gaffney (NYU) at CLAG 2023 - with George F Roberson (University of Massachusetts-Amherst) the film's writer-producer, providing context and Q+A. The screening was part of an academic tour, see snapshot attached

With the film, Dr Roberson was inspired by Donald Meinig (Syracuse University) and his call for "geographers as creative artists" making "explicitly emotional works" ("Geography as an Art", D W Meinig's guest lecture to the Institute of British Geographers, 1983).

**Storyline.** In a harsh urban reality, José's life changes forever when he pursues a forbidden relationship with a rural migrant worker. Deep emotions of first-love invokes self-reflection, and José embarks on a journey of discovery. Wandering in sacred Mayan space, José senses place-wisdom and finds transcendent hope, determination and inspiration. The film features Mayan-Guatemalan actor-activist/spiritual leader Enrique Salanic, see photo attached

The film world premiered at Venice film festival (where "political film" is championed, alongside celebrity and entertainment); is the first film from Central America ever presented at Venice; features an all-Guatemalan cast and crew; and has featured on Sundance channel, in USA cinemas, and at 200+ film events (campuses, classrooms, conferences, art and cultural centers, and 100+ film festivals) in 70+ countries worldwide.

Coming soon: **José** at World Women's Studies Conference in Bangkok, Thailand, see attached

For classroom and Campus screenings, contact **Swank Motion Pictures:**

<https://www.swank.com/digital-campus/details/63283-jose>

For cast + crew appearances (in-person / via zoom), contact: YQstudioLLC@gmail.com

filmography: **José** by Li Cheng - a simple story for a fragile world, a love letter to Guatemala:

[https://linktr.ee/geo\\_arts](https://linktr.ee/geo_arts) | en espanol: [https://linktr.ee/jose\\_peli\\_guatemala](https://linktr.ee/jose_peli_guatemala)

The team are making more films (in Latin America, The Balkans, South / Southeast Asia), and are always seeking interested people: collaborators, filmies, artists, etc

questions: George F Roberson -  
geo888rob@gmail.com

lead actor Enrique Salanic (center), with Li Cheng (director - left) and Manolo Herrera (right) - at world premiere at Venice International Film Festival



## JOURNAL OF LATIN AMERICAN GEOGRAPHY, No 22(2) 2022

Please download all the articles and book reviews from Project Muse where available

<https://muse.jhu.edu/issue/48812>

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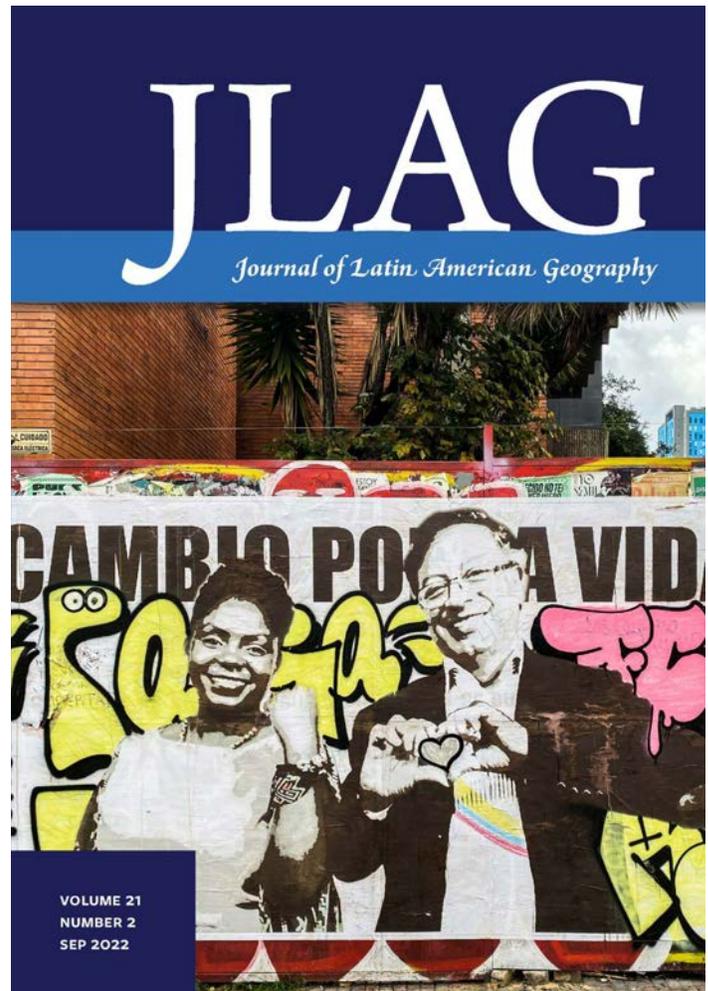
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### JLAG PERSPECTIVES:

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## CLAG/LASG MEMBER NEWS

### HONORS:

#### **Experts of Latin American Geography awarded honors by the Conference of Latin American Geography (CLAG)**

**The Conference of Latin American Geography (CLAG)** awarded seven honors on January 4, 2023 at the 37th CLAG Conference in Tucson, AZ. The seven awardees research and teach across six different institutions from Arizona to North Carolina and Dalhousie, Canada and have expertise in Latin American regions as disparate as the Amazon rainforest and the island of Cuba. What unites these eminent geographers is their dedication to furthering a deeper understanding of this fascinating and dynamic region. The Conference of Latin American Geography celebrated these geographers at a January conference hosted at the University of Arizona. CLAG, founded in 1970, has over 200 members from around the globe who foster geographic education and research on and in Latin America.

A researcher and two undergraduate students from Peru, Brazil, and Virginia, USA also won poster awards at the CLAG conference.

## The Carl O. Sauer Distinguished Scholarship Award

**The Carl O. Sauer Distinguished Scholarship Award** is given in recognition for a corpus of important published work or other significant contribution towards Latin American geography. Recipients are scholars who are leading authorities in specific research topics and geographic areas of Latin America. CLAG's 2023 recipient of the Sauer Award is **Dr. Gabriela Valdivia**. Gabriela is a Professor in the Department of Geography at University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where she also currently serves as an Assistant Dean for the Honors College. Gabriela's corpus of work examines the political ecology of natural resource governance, primarily in Ecuador and Bolivia. It examines the socio-environmental dynamics of agrarian transitions, conservation, and oil extraction, to understand how states, corporations, and civil society act to appropriate and transform resources to meet their interests. In one project, *Crude Entanglements*, Gabriela's work uses feminist ethnography and digital storytelling to honor the experiences and struggles of people living with oil production in Esmeralda, Ecuador. Her work is innovative, critical, and justice-seeking.



## The Public Engagement Award

**The Public Engagement Award** is given to an individual in recognition of contributions to enhancing and disseminating knowledge of the geography of Latin America to civil society, the private sector, or government. **Dr. Robert Huish** is the recipient of the **2023 CLAG Public Engagement Award**. He is an Associate Professor in the Department of International Development Studies at Dalhousie University in Canada. Bob is a public scholar who



regularly discusses his (and other scholars') work through media appearances, publications in journalistic outlets and his own podcast – *The Global Development Primer*, which has achieved a wide global audience of 18,000 listeners in 146 countries, including 15 countries in Latin



America. Bob is a regular commentator on Canadian television and radio news outlets on issues of global public health, migration, climate change, and debt restructuring. He has recently been invited to work with the UN Special Rapporteur on unilateral coercive measures (sanctions) and become a frequent contributor to *The Conversation*, a nonprofit, independent news organization "dedicated to unlocking the knowledge of experts for the public good," where he translates his academic research and teaching for a broader public audience. This award is given in acknowledgment of Dr. Huish's efforts in promoting an understanding of Cuba and Latin America for a truly global audience.

## The CLAG Teaching Award

**Dr. Brad Jokisch** is the recipient of the second ever **CLAG Teaching Award** (2023) which recognizes outstanding teaching that inspires and educates students about the geography of Latin America. Dr. Jokisch is an Associate Professor of Geography, and former Director of Latin American Studies, at Ohio University. He teaches Geography of Latin America with the spirit of a Latin Americanist Geographer with detailed attention to bio-physical systems, human modification of the landscape, contemporary environment and development issues, and themes of population, migration, globalization, and economy in the context of the region. Students at Ohio U. with an interest in the region are encouraged to take this course and apparently never disappointed. An award winning teacher at Ohio University, Dr. Jokisch also incorporates his expertise and research on Latin America into his other courses including Introduction to Human Geography, a large, introductory-level lecture course; Agricultural Ecosystems and Population Geography, both of which serve upper-level undergraduate and graduate students; and seminars on Research and Writing in Geography and Migration and Development for graduate students. In addition to educating and inspiring students in the classroom, Dr. Jokisch has also advised 25 Master's theses during his time at Ohio University, with 16 of these focusing on research in Latin America. Students with an interest in Latin America at Ohio University choose to work with Dr. Jokisch, not only because of his expertise in the region, but also because he is a caring and supportive advisor with extensive fieldwork experience in Latin America. His students know that they can count on him to help them produce meaningful geographic research in this context. Finally, Brad also won a Fulbright-Hays Group Project Abroad Grant earlier in his career to develop and direct a study away program for OU students to Cuenca, Ecuador on the topic of "Multicultural Ecuador."



## The Ascendente Award

**Dr. Case Watkins** is the recipient of the second ever **CLAG Ascendente Award** (2023) which is given in recognition of an early career scholar/educator (<8 years since PhD date) demonstrating outstanding early accomplishment in the scholarship, teaching, and engagement of/with the geography of Latin America. Dr. Watkins is a newly promoted Associate Professor of Justice Studies at James Madison University. Dr. Watkins, a cultural and human-environment geographer, serves as an excellent awardee of the Ascendente Award because of his outstanding early



accomplishments in scholarship, teaching, and engagement in Latin American Geography since his PhD was conferred in 2015. His book, *Palm Oil Diaspora: Afro-Brazilian Landscapes and Economies on Bahia's Dendê*



*Coast* was awarded the Roberto Reis Book Award by the Brazilian Studies Association and received an Honorable Mention for the Meridian Book Award by the American Association of Geographers (AAG). Building on this work, Dr. Watkins is now becoming a leading voice in studies of the Black Atlantic as they pertain to Latin America and political ecology. Dr. Watkins is also an engaging and passionate professor who teaches environmental justice, mapping, migration, and global justice, and is known to demand the best from his students even as he provides them the tools to succeed.

### CLAG Enlaces Award

**Dr. Armando Portela** is the recipient of the **2023 CLAG Enlaces Award**. The Enlaces Award is given in recognition of contributions to improving relationships between geographers and geography departments throughout Latin America. Recipients have demonstrated success and commitment towards this goal. Dr. Portela is an independent geographer who for several decades has produced and edited the journals

*Cuba Geográfica* and *Cuadernos de Geomorfología de Cuba*. These publications bring geographic research to both specialists and the general public to subscribers in the US, Cuba, the former USSR, and Latin America. For decades, faculty and students at universities throughout Cuba and subscribers in the broader region receive weekly updates through the arrival of these publications via email. Dr. Portela is also a regular contributor to the periodicals *CubaStandard* and *Cubanews* and is an economic news analyst for the *Miami Herald* and its Spanish-language version *El Herald*. His mission is to help Cuban geographers keep up with geographic developments (especially in GIS and automated cartography) through his dissemination of geographic knowledge. CLAG is pleased to recognize Dr. Portela's dedication and commitment to improving relations and spreading geography knowledge in Cuba and beyond.



## The Outstanding Service to CLAG

**The Outstanding Service to CLAG** award is given in recognition of significant contributions to the improved functioning, broadened outreach, or enhanced impact of CLAG. CLAG's 2023 recipient of the Service Award is **Dr. Johnny Finn**, for his service as Editor-in-Chief for CLAG's Journal of Latin American Geography. Johnny is an Associate Professor of Geography and Chair of the Department of Sociology, Social Work, and Anthropology at Christopher Newport University. For the last 4 years, he has led JLAG ever forward in its mission to support CLAG and the geographical scholarship of Latin America. As stated in his nomination letter, "Johnny has led a dynamic and progressive transformation of the Journal that has included: global outreach and recruitment, new translation initiatives, an expansion of the editorial board, a doubling of downloads and revenues, a greater diversity of contributors, a rise in rankings, the inclusion of JLAG in new indexing services, a diversification of content, a further streamlining of work flows, and the use of JLAG as a tool for the decolonization of knowledge."



## The Preston E. James Eminent Latin Americanist Career Award

**Dr. Diana Liverman** is the recipient of the **Preston E. James Eminent Latin Americanist Career Award 2023**. The Preston E. James Eminent Latin Americanist Career Award is given in recognition of a life-time achievement towards the understanding of the geography of Latin America. Diana's research has focused on the human dimensions of global environmental change, with her main research interests on climate impacts, vulnerability and adaptation, and climate policy and mitigation, drawing attention to the social causes and consequences of climate change. One of Diana's early insights was the interconnectivity of a global food system in which food supply and food security could be affected by climate disruptions, reflecting her early insights into interconnected human-environment systems and the vulnerability of supply chains, before these connections were widely recognized. She has more than 50 doctoral advisees, and has served on numerous other Latin American geographers' committees, and mentored others through the promotion and tenure process. She currently has projects on climate justice including the role of women in climate science, climate and poverty in Tucson, and climate in the Sustainable Development Goals. Diana directed the Latin American Studies program at the University of Arizona (1996-2002) then became the director of Environmental Change Institute at Oxford in 2003, where she contributed significantly to research on carbon offsetting in Latin America and globally. In 2009 she was recruited back to the University of Arizona as co-director of a newly-created Institute of the Environment. In 2020, Diana was elected to the U.S. National Academy of



Sciences and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and in 2022 was made a fellow of the British Academy. She has led and served with a number of national and international high-profile projects and committees beyond the academy. Last but not least, Diana chaired and co-chaired the CLAG conference in Tucson in 2003 and 2023. Diana's efforts in these varied academic and applied initiatives combine to bring to life her vision of safe and just targets for the earth system on a strong foundation of academic Latin American geography. For her impactful accomplishments Diana Liverman is a most deserving recipient of the Preston E. James Eminent Latin Americanist Career Award.

### Member Awards:

National Science Foundation. Dynamics of Integrated Socio-Environmental Systems Program. "Resilient socio-environmental systems: Indigenous territories in the face of change" PI: **Walker, R.** Co-PIs: Acevedo, M.A.; **Correia J.E.**; Esbach, M.; **Simmons, C.** Award # 2108308.

Fulbright Scholar Flex Award (2022-2023). U.S. Department of State. "Building the future: Infrastructure, climate change, and Indigenous environmental justice in Paraguay's Chaco." PI: **Joel E. Correia.**

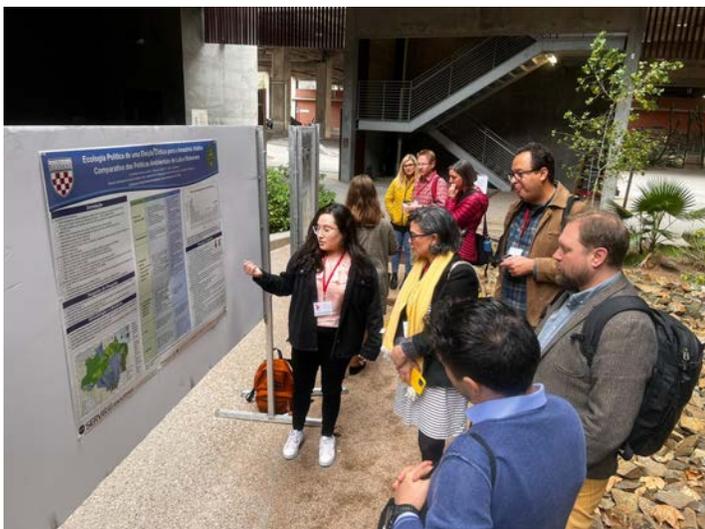
Political Ecology Society "Eric Wolf Prize" for best paper; "A political ecology of jurisdictional REDD+: Investigating social-environmentalism, climate change mitigation, and environmental (in)justice in the Brazilian Amazon" co-authored with **Marcelo Santos Rocha da Silva.**

### CLAG Poster Awards:

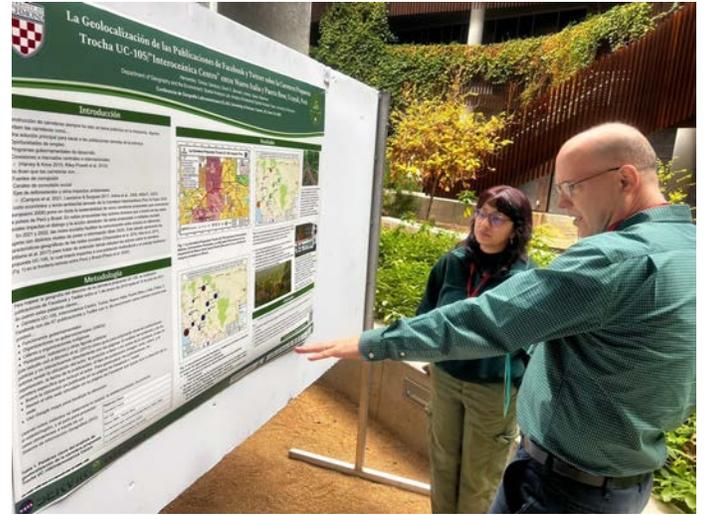
Three individuals from Brazil, Peru, and Virginia received awards for best poster at the **37th Conference of Latin American Geography (CLAG)** on January 6, 2023 at the University of Arizona in Tucson, AZ, USA.

**Leticia de Almeida Sbrocca**, an undergraduate student in Biological Sciences at the Pontifícia Universidade Católica do Rio de Janeiro, currently an exchange student at the University of Richmond and research student in the Amazon Borderlands Spatial Analysis Team (ABSAT), received the poster award for her poster titled, **Ecologia Política de uma Eleição Crítica para a Amazônia: Análise Comparativa das Políticas Ambientais de Lula e Bolsonaro (Political Ecology of a Critical Election for Amazonia: A Comparative Analysis of Environmental Policies of Lula and Bolsonaro)** with David S. Salisbury and Stephanie A.

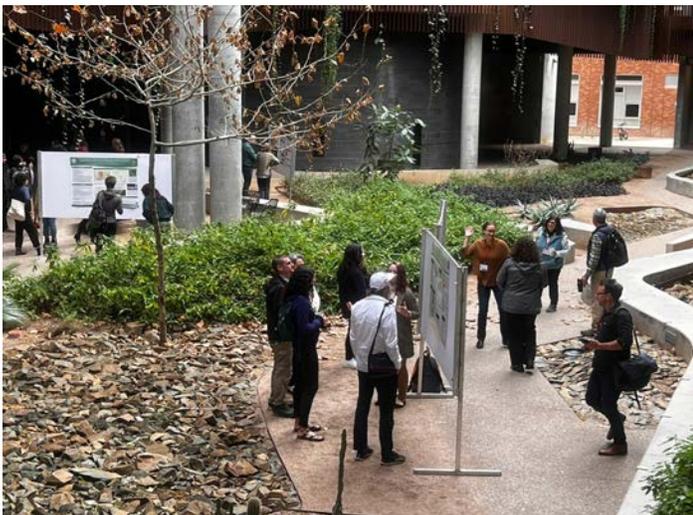
Spera of the University of Richmond



**Tereza Hernández**, an undergraduate student in the Department of Geography, Environment, and Sustainability, at the University of Richmond, and a researcher in the Amazon Borderlands Spatial Analysis Team (ABSAT) received the poster award for her poster titled, **La Geolocalización de las Publicaciones de Facebook y Twitter sobre la Carretera Propuesta Trocha UC-105 (The Geolocalization of Facebook and Twitter Posts on the Proposed Road Trocha UC-105)** with David S. Salisbury, Lyndsey Barnard, and Stephanie A. Spera of the University of Richmond.



**Marvin J. Quispe Sedano**, a researcher and environmental scientist at Conservación Amazónica (ACCA, Peru) in Lima, Peru, and a graduate of the Environmental Engineering program at the Universidad Nacional Agraria La Molina (UNALM) won the poster award for his poster titled, **Historical Analysis of Forest and Connectivity Roads in Madre de Dios, Peru**, with Sidney Novoa and Osmar Yupanqui of ACCA, Peru.



**The CLAG poster session in the Slot Canyon atrium within the University of Arizona's Environment and Natural Resources building provided an hour of engaged intellectual interchange and discussion over lunch**

PICTURES FROM THE FIELD:

**Hernán Bianchi Benguria**, in San Pedro de Atacama, Chile:



**Kristen Conway-Gómez** in Costa Rica, Cuba, Rapa Nui and Temuco, Chile:



**Jim Penn** in Bonanza, Nicaragua:



## RECENT GRADUATES AND NEW POSITIONS

### SUCCESSFULLY DEFENDED THESES AND DISSERTATIONS:

#### PhD

**Dr. William Delgado.** Doctorate in Geography, University of Texas at Austin. Dissertation: “New Water, New Energy – Solar Power for a Proposed Desalination Plant and Existing Water Production and Distribution Infrastructure in Water-Scarce Ciudad Juárez, Mexico.” Under the direction of Drs. Timothy Beach and Sheryl Luzzadder-Beach.

**Dr. Livier Julieta Soto González.** Doctorado en Geografía UNAM. Sistema productivo local y territorio: el caso de la alfarería en Capula, Michoacán. ”. Bajo la dirección del Dr. Antonio Vieyra.



#### Masters

**Kathryn McDaniel.** MS in Geography, Texas State University. Advisor: Dr. Jennifer Devine. Thesis: “Asylum Policies of Expulsion and Grassroots Refugee Governance at the US-Mexico Border”

**Elise Breann Arellano-Thompson.** MS in Geography, Texas State University. Advisor: Dr. Sarah Blue. Thesis: “The Role of Natural Hazards and Climate Change in Migration from Central America to the US”

**Mollie B. Price.** MS in Geography, Texas State University. Advisor: Dr. Sarah Blue. Thesis: “Seeking Solace: LGBTQIA+ Asylum Seekers at the US-Mexico Border”

**Jacqueline Yared Cortina Aguilera.** Maestría en Geografía, UNAM. Tesis: "Terraceo para la restauración de suelos y adaptación para la sequía en la reserva de la biosfera Mapimí ". Bajo la dirección del Dr. Gerardo Héctor Rubén Bocco Verdinelli y la Dra. Esperanza Arnés Prieto. Reconocimiento: Mención honorífica.

**Ireri Yunuen Mireles Bernabé.** Maestría en Geografía, UNAM. Tesis: " Uso de plaguicidas y riesgos potenciales a la salud y el ambiente en la agricultura periurbana del área conurbada Morelia- Tarímbaro, Michoacán". Bajo la dirección de la Dra. Yadira Mireya Méndez Lemus y la Mtra. Hilda Rivas. Reconocimiento: Mención honorífica.

**José Francisco Orozco Meléndez.** Maestría en Geografía, UNAM. Tesis: " Retos y oportunidades para la ciencia post-normal en el Sur Global ". Bajo la dirección del Dr. Jaime Paneque Gálvez. Reconocimiento: Mención honorífica.

### NEW POSITIONS:

**Audrey Joslin** was awarded tenure and promoted in 2022 to Associate Professor in the Department of Geography and Geospatial Sciences at Kansas State University.

**Joel E. Correia** will begin a new role as Assistant Professor in the Human Dimensions of Natural Resources Department at Colorado State University in January 2023 after having worked four and a half years as an Assistant Professor in the Center for Latin American Studies at the University of Florida.

# 2023 CLAG FIELD STUDY AWARDS

## Deadline March 6, 2023

The Conference of Latin American Geography (CLAG) invites applications for the 2023 CLAG Student Field Study Grants. Each year CLAG confers named grants at the Ph.D. level (Bernard Nietschmann, Robert C. West, and James J. Parsons grants) and at the master's level (Clarissa Kimber, William M. Denevan, and Oscar Horst grants).

These grants are intended to support graduate student members of CLAG in their thesis or dissertation research in Latin America or concerning the Latin American diaspora. The grants are not intended to cover all fieldwork costs, but rather to assist students working towards the Master's degree or Ph.D. in their field and/or archival research in Latin America. The grant for the **MA/MS recipients** will be approximately **\$1,000** and for **Ph.D. recipients** about **\$1,500**.

### Eligibility:

- Member of CLAG before the application deadline ( <https://clagscholar.org/membership/join-clag/>);
- Registered as a graduate (M.A., M.S., or Ph.D.) student in a geography department or related discipline;
- Regional area of research in Latin America, including the Caribbean, is given priority. If the regional area of research is outside of Latin America/Caribbean, a clear justification of how the study relates to dynamics in Latin America must be provided. CLAG Field Study Awards are for field and archival research, not for attendance at academic meetings or language acquisition;
- Recipients of previous CLAG Field Study Awards are ineligible to apply with the exception that previous winners at the Master's level may apply for the Ph.D. level award if they are enrolled in a Ph.D. program;
- Fieldwork must be conducted during the dates specified in the proposal. Any anticipated significant changes must be reported to the CLAG Chair;
- All awardees must provide a home address;
- Grantees must supply either a US social security number or an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) to the CLAG Treasurer before receiving the grant (this is necessary for CLAG to comply with IRS reporting obligations).

Please see the full instructions at: <https://clagscholar.org/honors-grants/student-travel-grant/> (webpage will be updated with new call soon)

Application materials may be in English, Spanish, or Portuguese. Grantees will be **notified by April 3, 2023**.

All applications should be **submitted via email to Rebecca Clouser** ([rclouser@wustl.edu](mailto:rclouser@wustl.edu)) no later than **March 6, 2023** as a single document that includes the following items:

- 1) Applicant cover sheet (find through above link);
- 2) Fieldwork Proposal Narrative;
- 3) Curriculum Vitae (two pages);
- 4) Faculty Letter of Support, sent by the recommender, not applicant.

We look forward to reviewing your innovative proposals!



# CLAG FIELD STUDY REPORTS, 2022

## PH.D. FIELD STUDY REPORTS

**Jesus Alejandro Garcia**, PhD Student, Department of Environmental Science, Policy, & Management, University of California, Berkeley

**Project:** Militarized river management in the Upper Magdalena River, Colombia

### Abstract

Located between the eastern and central branches of the Colombian Andes, the Upper Magdalena River (UMR) bears witness to a sedimented history of infrastructural projects and development programs that shape the socio-ecological life of the region in contradictory ways. While the Colombian state, in partnership with the US and European capital, has intended counterinsurgency battalions and hydropower dams as modernization vehicles, their primary beneficiaries challenge them on the grounds these projects constitute extensions of enduring colonial relations.

My dissertation research investigates how riverine communities of the UMR understand, experience, and contest the coupled global dynamics of US-backed counterinsurgency efforts and Euro-Spanish hydropower infrastructures. In the wake of a massive Chinese-led hydropower boom in Colombia, with a proposed 15 new dams in the UMR, uplifting the voices of these riverine communities will elucidate how global green energy infrastructures and the military industrial complex refract locally and will provide a window onto broader questions about the militarization of river management in Latin America. In this piece, I focus on information learned from participant observation at four different places along the UMR.

**Keywords:** Magdalena River, green militarism, counterinsurgency, land-water interfaces



Figure 1. Graffiti about military spending in Colombia. Neiva-Huila

During the first six months of my fieldwork, I have focused on 1) how riverine communities remember the entwined histories of US-backed counterinsurgency and Spanish-owned hydropower infrastructures in the UMR, 2) how counterinsurgency and hydropower infrastructures shape riverine communities' access, use, and control of the riverine landscapes, and 3) how riverine communities negotiate and contest the damming and militarization of the waterscape.

With the support from CLAG, I have been able to travel along the Huila stretch of the UMR. I have participated in anti-damming social movements' meetings, talked to riverine peasants and fisherfolk about the coupled dynamics of militarization and hydropower infrastructure, and collaborated with different socio-environmental organizations that dispute river management practices in the UMR. Data collection has consisted of ethnographic note taking and semi-structured interviews. This experience has allowed me to gain valuable insights into how people contend and negotiate the daily dynamics of militarism and river management in different places along the UMR.



Figure 2. Betania Dam Military Base: Abandoned. Yaguara-Huila

My ethnographic inquiry has unveiled that the dynamics of militarization within the UMR are changing rapidly. In the Betania Dam, built in the 1980, fisherfolk still remember the days when the military patrolled the reservoir cutting fisherfolk's artisanal fishing lines. My informants report that due to that it was easy for fisherfolk to lose fishing hooks and the catch itself. Days of work and waiting, not to mention valuable resources, were lost. Those were the times when the military became de-facto fishing authorities in the Betania Dam. Those days are gone today. The military no longer patrol the reservoir, they are only stationed by the powerhouse, where the turbines are placed. The Betania Military Base, erstwhile the operational center of militaries in charge of the Betania Dam, seems to have been abandoned.

This doesn't mean that the military have relinquished their political control of the riverine landscapes. The Special Energy and Highway Battalions No. 12 (BAEEV 12), originally created during the construction of El Quimbo Dam, has expanded its reach to new locations and topics of intervention. Peasant leaders who opposed the construction of El Quimbo Dam in Garzon recall how the construction of this battalion meant for them process of stigmatization and criminalization, and a shift in balance of forces that undermined the peasant resistance and allowed the company building the dam, the military, and the police to take the upper hand in the socio-environmental conflict. Today, the BAEEV 12 provides security services to the oil industry and electric power transmission

stations. Its infrastructure is present not only in Garzon, where the central base is placed, but in at least two other places along the UMR, sometimes in the form of substations and some others just as a trench with a sign. My informants also report that the BAEEV 12 has also taken an active role in the fight against environmental crimes acting on demand by the Corporación Autónoma del Alto Magdalena (CAM), the region's formal environmental authority, to apprehend forest loggers.



Figure 3. Military stand in an agroecological farmer's market. Garzo - Huila.

The counterinsurgent presence in the region takes many shapes and generates different feelings among my informants. I witnessed this myself when I attended an agroecological peasant-farmers' market in Garzon - Huila. This was part of a two-day workshop on native seeds and fish organized by members of an anti-damming social movement-cum agrarian entrepreneurs. I was astonished to arrive at the market and find that the opening stand belonged to the Cacique Pigoanza Battalion: there were two machine guns in full display behind a mock trench guarded by two seemingly uninterested soldiers. The discomfort with this stand was clearly visible in some of the event organizers while others seemed to barely notice it. During lunch, I raised the issue of the apparently awkward presence of a counter-insurgent stand in an agroecological peasant market and one of the organizers replied to me that there was nothing awkward about it: "We are social leaders, we need security. They are here to look

after us”. That opinion was not shared by all the organizing members. A woman in her mid-30s explained to me that the presence of the military stand in the event was more of a miniature sample of social tensions in the UMR, where peasant communities push for an agroecological transition amidst counterinsurgency, and surveillance.



Figure 4. Graffiti of FARC political party in Villa Fatima - Huila.

These situations sharply differ from how the entanglements between counterinsurgency and hydropower infrastructure take place in Colombian Massif, the mountainous area of the Magdalena River’s headwaters. Previous to the 2016 Peace Accord, the Colombian Massif was an active stage of counterinsurgency operations against Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia (FARC). After the FARC handed down their weapons, it became common to find graffiti with the logo of their newly emerged political party, the Fuerza Alternativa Revolucionaria del Común, on peasant houses’ walls. In my recent visits to this area, I have been able to note that the fear that the high days of armed conflict might come back is ubiquitous. My informants, who oppose the land acquisition for conservation purposes spearheaded by the Spanish company owner of El Quimbo and Betania dams, relate that public institutions in charge of overseeing human rights have been retreating from their territory citing ‘security concerns’. They are unclear about the legitimacy of the security concerns cited but they speak clearly about the effects of this retreat. As one of the leaders opposing the land deals has told me, while the oversight of human rights violations retreats, the

military come back to patrol the headwaters of the river, instilling fear, undermining dissensus against land acquisitions, and foreclosing political debate about the conservation policy in the area.

### How Funds were Spent

I used CLAG funds to cover airfare to and from San Francisco, California and Bogota, Colombia (\$1000), a domestic round ticket from Bogota to Neiva (\$100), a Zoom voice recorder for interviews (\$215), and a \$150 for stationery and printing costs. CLAG’s support has been fundamental to the success of this project. THANK YOU!

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**Jorge Choy-Gómez**, PhD Candidate, Teresa Lozano Long Institute for Latin American Studies (LLILAS), University of Texas at Austin

**Project:** Humanitarian Violence: Care and Bureaucracy for Central American Migrants and Refugees in Mexico

### Abstract

In 2011, the Mexican government created relatively unknown detention centers throughout the country, specially designed for unaccompanied children migrants and asylum seekers. Despite the critical importance of the physical and discursive operations of these detention centers, there is an under-examination of the role of those who operate them, especially since they are the direct executors of immigration policy on the ground. My research focuses on public officials who work in these detention centers and examines who these public agents are and how they materialize immigration policies on an everyday basis. I explore how their enactments are framed by state practices of care and transnational and local human rights discourses, in a context of immigration control policies and its inherent bureaucracy, in the southern and northern borders of Mexico.

**Key words:** Detention Centers, Bureaucracy, Immigration, Asylum, Borders

To complement the fieldwork I began in the summer of 2020 in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, the CLAG Field Study Grant allowed me to return this past summer to Ciudad Juarez and Nogales, on the MX-US border. As an essential part of my research lies in the ethnographic observation of detention spaces for unaccompanied children, and having the COVID-19 health emergency almost totally restricted access to the spaces planned for my research, it was imperative to return to these cities to collect as much data as possible.

In Ciudad Juarez, I had the opportunity to conduct interviews with staff at shelters for unaccompanied migrant children, as well as with other key stakeholders, such as non-governmental organizations and academics. This city has become one of the busiest destinations for Central American, Caribbean, South American and even African immigrants in recent years, as it has a better material infrastructure than most cities on Mexico's northern border. However, until the arrival of the migrant caravans in 2018 this was not a city that stood out in the immigration landscape in Mexico. From this phenomenon, a network of non-governmental organizations, including many shelters, emerged to attend to this phenomenon. Along with this, various state institutions previously dedicated to the care of Mexican returnee children - the population of greatest attention in this part of the border - have turned their resources and efforts to the care of unaccompanied migrant and asylum-seeking children.

One of the main goals of my research in Ciudad Juarez was to conduct participant observation in the state-run shelters (detention centers) for unaccompanied children and to conduct interviews with staff. To carry out these activities, I used participatory methodologies that focused on the day-to-day dynamics of these shelters. During a participatory workshop on shelter decision-making protocols, two main learnings about the logic of these detention centers were illustrated: 1) despite the detailed institutional decision-making guidelines in these shelters, fundamental actions regarding the care of unaccompanied children and

their migration and potentially asylum cases still fall under the subjective decision making of the staff who live with them on a day-to-day basis. The age, gender, even race of both staff and children is central to this decision making, despite the theoretically neutral nature of the protocols. At the same time, 2) the sudden institutional decision to serve immigrant and asylum-seeking populations, in addition to continuing to serve Mexican children deported from the U.S., prevents shelters from differentiating care, including all children in the same category of need, automatically converting them into mere bureaucratic data necessary to meet institutional demand. This sudden decision, motivated by the emergency and massive arrival of immigrants and asylum seekers in Ciudad Juarez - among other things, due to the implementation of the MPP and Title 42 - reflects the almost sudden evolution of these shelters, which are part of a larger institutional social assistance network created in the 1970s but which has poured much of its resources into immigration control.



Institutional mapping workshop. State-run shelter in Ciudad Juarez.

My trip to Nogales helped me to broaden the scope of my fieldwork, as I volunteered at the Hogar de la Paz (pseudonym) non-governmental shelter, where I expanded my perspective to the urgent situation of hundreds of immigrants and Mexicans displaced and stranded at Mexico's northern border due to restrictive US policies, which enriches and widens the impact of my research.

While volunteering there, I learned about a little-advertised program that somehow progresses almost clandestinely: Title 42<sup>1</sup> exceptions. Nearly 100% of the people who enter this shelter end up crossing the border for the opportunity to apply for asylum. For many, getting into this program and being allowed to leave the country is a matter of life and death. Taking a look at the shelter, which has clearly been worked on and expanded, I realized that it is actually located in a dangerous part of Nogales, on the side of a hill.

The Title 42 exceptions initially went from April thru July 2021, abruptly stopped, and then started in April 2022 and no one knows if it could be once again stopped this July 2022 (latest reports indicate that implementation of Title 42 will cease in December 2022). This creates a sense of urgency because at any time the pipeline could once again be turned off with no notice. From other sources, this little-known program was a result of an ACLU lawsuit and quiet behind the scenes negotiations between the legal NGOs and the Biden administration to allow a small weekly quota of the most vulnerable asylum seekers (women, children, single mothers, people with medical issues, people fleeing government persecution and violence, etc.). The way this shelter has managed to become one of two pipelines to entry into the US is through working with a legal NGO on the other side of the border, based in Tucson.

My experience in Nogales enabled me to observe the communicating threads between the logics of detention of migrant and asylum-seeking children and Title 42 exceptions: both are strategies intended to deter people from exercising their right to mobility and seeking international protection. By using spectacularly restrictive measures such as detention and clandestine ones such as Title 42 exceptions, governments span the public and private spheres, both enforcement and humanitarian, to restrict and manage mobility.

The CLAG Field Study Grant allowed me to understand more deeply the geopolitical connections that reside in everyday spaces and that are in the hands of unnoticed and little explored

subjects, which has undoubtedly been of great importance to my research and for which I am extremely grateful.



Hogar de la Paz shelter. Nogales, Sonora.



Women migrants and asylum seekers making bread at Hogar de la Paz. Nogales, Sonora.

<sup>1</sup> Health code restriction that prevents asylum seekers from exercising this right on U.S. territory by de facto confining them to the Mexican side of the border.

**María Guillén-Araya**, PhD Student, Department of Geography, Clark University

My doctoral dissertation interrogates the relationship between the geopolitical changes that

drastically transformed Central America during the 1980s and 1990s (the peace negotiations and neoliberal restructuring) with the touristic boom that came afterward. To do this I focus on the entanglements between the ideological and material processes that produce tourism on the ground. My application to the Field Study Grant was focused on doing archival work in Guatemala and Costa Rica, which was the first stage of fieldwork in my research methodology.

Archival research is key to my research for several reasons. First, tourism is a relatively understudied topic in the region, meaning that primary sources gain weight when it comes to gathering data. Second, because I'm studying the ideologies of these geopolitical transformations, my methodology was guiding me to texts where I could trace the ideas, meanings and interpretations of reality that were shaping that past when it was present. After being in the archives of the Centro de Investigaciones Regionales de Mesoamérica (CIRMA), the Instituto Guatemalteco de Turismo (INGUAT), and the Central American Parliament in Guatemala (PARLACEN), as well as the "Intermediate Archive" of the Archivo Nacional de Costa Rica, I have over 3900 scans of documents that are invaluable for my dissertation. These documents include, among others, peace accords documents, diplomatic meetings proceedings, journalistic cables, international cooperation agreements, letters between public officials, institutional budgets, reports on institutional reforms, structural adjustment documents, and regional sustainable development policies on tourism. I'm now in the stage of coding these documents and analyzing them.

Doing archival research in Central America proves to be very challenging methodologically and institutionally. Methodologically, the types and amounts of documents each institution preserves are widely different, which poses challenges to comparison because the information gathered for each country varies greatly.

In the Archivo Nacional de Costa Rica, the Intermediate Archive preserves documents from

public institutions that are no more than forty years old (from the year 1990 onwards), most of the documents are official letters sent to and from institutions and official reports about things such as reforms, loans, official meetings' proceedings, public policies. According to the assistant at the archive, the Archivo Nacional has an institutional commission of specialists who decide what to keep from the documents public institutions send to the archive; what is not "substantive" is discarded. All the documents of this archive are coded, staff lent me folders that I revised in situ and could scan freely at no cost. As such, the documents that I had in my hands went through at least two filters: the selection done by the archivist at the institution of origin and the institutional commission of the Archivo Nacional.

Institutionally, there are big gaps as well. Guatemala does not have a national law regulating the archival patrimony of the country, so the regulation of documentation falls under the law of access to public information which is very weak and not enforceable. In the case of INGUAT, I made the request to the office of public information, which seemed relatively easy at first, but it got complicated when I was asked to specify things about the documents I could not know because I had no access to a catalog nor to the archive itself. Everything was mediated through the public information window or over email. Because there was the supposition that I had to know each exact document I were to request, there was no element of surprise, as it happened to me when I was given folders to examine at CIRMA or the Archivo Nacional de Costa Rica, where I found documents I didn't even know existed. Speaking to Guatemalan friends about this experience at INGUAT, some attribute these deficiencies to a political culture that is not only related to corruption but also to the legacies of secrecy and censorship of the internal war that ended formally in 1996. I also consulted the library at INGUAT, this was useful for finding information on the Mundo Maya project and other archives regarding economic policy on tourism.

On the one hand, the National Archive of Costa Rica centralizes most of the archival patrimony of

the country, both historical and intermediate. On the other hand, Guatemala has an uneven landscape of documental preservation, especially when it comes to materials from the recent past. This makes a private initiative like CIRMA an important locus of archival research in Guatemala. However, this comes at a cost for researchers. Because of the nature of funding in non-profit foundations like CIRMA, they charge for the rights of reproduction of the documents (photocopying and digitalization). This is pricy. I paid almost US \$300 for reproductions. If I had not had the CLAG field grant I could not have paid this amount without making cuts to basic needs like accommodation and meals.

The funds from the fieldwork grant of CLAG were used to pay for the reproduction rights of documents, to pay for the airfare from San José to Guatemala City, for ground transportation locally, and for accommodation in Guatemala City and Antigua.

The findings of this portion of my methodology will be used for writing a historical chapter in my dissertation where I will explore the particular neoliberal birth of the touristic boom in Central America. From the work in the archives, I found out that the political economy of tourism was structured differently from sectors such as agriculture and finance, and that understanding this neoliberal restructuring requires attention to the geopolitics of the peace process and the role of emerging regional elites (now transnational and with investment in the service sector). Furthermore, once I start the ethnographic portion of my project, I'm certain that the findings I drew from the archives will be helpful to have a greater understanding of what I will be seeing in the field.

Thanks to CLAG for this enriching fieldwork experience!



Me going through the documents at CIRMA. Antigua, Guatemala, 2022.



In the corners of the Intermediate Archive. Archivo Nacional de Costa Rica. San Jose, 2022.

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**Jesse Edward Tenenbaum**, PhD Student,  
Department of Geography & the Environment,  
University of Denver

### **Abstract**

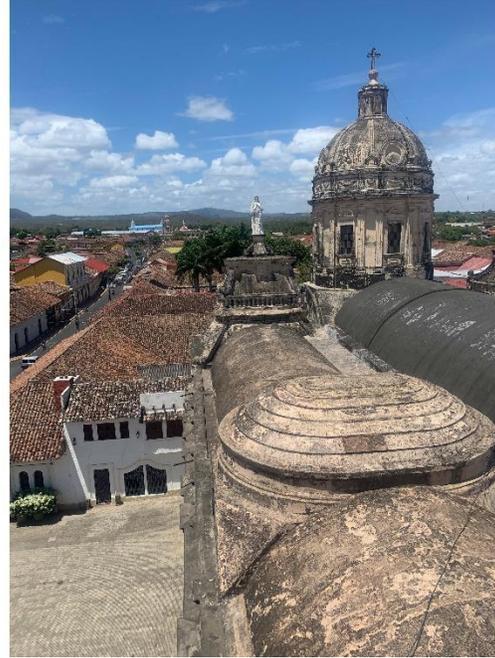
Based on preliminary fieldwork in Nicaragua in 2022, I discuss the prevalence and importance of spaces used by LGBT+ Nicaraguans for their well-being, community-building, and empowerment. As in many other countries, socio-economic class and urban/rural dynamics impact the types of spaces available and who has access to them among LGBT+ Nicaraguans. However, Nicaragua's distinct political realities and

strong history of feminist activism compared to neighboring countries nuance the LGBT+ spaces and experiences in contemporary Nicaraguan society. On my preliminary field visits, I observed the implications of class on societal acceptance and access to spaces where Queer Nicaraguans can safely be themselves. For example, Nicaraguans from middle- and upper-class backgrounds tend to have access to spaces like hotels, restaurants, bars, and clubs where they can participate in displays of same-sex affection without repercussions to their social or physical wellbeing. Sadly, the average Nicaraguan cannot typically afford to spend time in these spaces, but they do have other networks and ways to form community, notably via the internet and through gay or trans- specific organizations like NGOs. It is also difficult to discuss a clear or consistent trajectory regarding LGBT+ rights and perceptions in contemporary Nicaragua because of the political realities of the current government, and the aftermath of the tension that began in 2018. Although still in its initial stages, my work advances the growing discourses around Queer space-making, community building, and wellbeing in the Global South, using Nicaragua as a case study.

I examine contemporary Queer spaces in Nicaragua to understand how they contribute to the changing social and cultural landscape for LGBT+ Nicaraguans. Despite having a history of policies and societal attitudes that are not considered “friendly” toward Queer individuals, Nicaragua also has a deeply embedded culture of activism and protest, and the country has made progress in its legal protections for LGBT+ individuals since de-criminalizing homosexual activities in 2008. To answer my questions: How have physical spaces that LGBT+ people use in Nicaragua changed in recent years? What kinds of spaces are effective at fostering a sense of community and safe spaces for Queer Nicaraguans? Who can access these spaces and what obstacles do people who cannot access them face? I plan to conduct fieldwork in the country, consisting of qualitative research methods, especially semi-structured in-depth interviews and extensive participant observation. Here I discuss

preliminary findings based on field visits made to Nicaragua in March, July/August, and December of 2022.

**Keywords:** LGBT+, Queer Spaces, Nicaragua, Queer Geography, Community



View of Granada from the top of Catedral La Merced



Nagarote, León District



Lago Xolotlan at night, Managua, Nicaragua



Sign on beach at Laguna de Apoyo, department of Masaya

I am very appreciative to have received the \$1,600 field study award from CLAG. The funds benefited my study while in Nicaragua in July and August of 2022. It covered round trip flights between Miami and Managua, which were quite expensive at this time due to the global fuel crisis linked to the Russian invasion of Ukraine and the surge in people traveling internationally for the first time "post" Covid, as well as the continuing effects of Nicaragua's political isolation stemming from events in 2018. This meant that until just recently, Avianca/TACA was the only airline operating flights to Managua from the US (\$1,021.80). Additionally, I had to pay fees of \$95 and \$96 to change the dates of my flights due to Covid complications while I was traveling, for a total cost of \$1,212.80 for flights. The rest of the money (\$387.20) was applied toward lodging for myself, and meals for myself and several contacts who will be willing to participate in my study when I return to Nicaragua for formal fieldwork and data collection. Being in the field and speaking with individuals whom I wish to write about was incredibly helpful, as we can only glean so much information from reading background literature and previous studies. As I intend to study the contemporary spaces and experiences of LGBT+ Nicaraguans, talking with individuals about their lives and situations in the past several years is vital. Having received this grant relieved financial pressure from me as a graduate student, and allowed me to ensure I could go to the places I deemed important to my study without having to worry that I would not have enough money.

During the total of seven weeks that I have spent in Nicaragua this year, I spent the most time in the city of Granada, which happens to be where I have a larger number of contacts, and where I have come to feel especially comfortable, though I also spent time in Managua at the start and ends of each of my trips, as well as shorter visits to León, Catarina, Masaya, Ometepe island, and the coastal communities of San Juan del Sur, Popoyo, and El Gigante. So far, most of the LGBT+ life I have observed has been focused in urban areas, but I met a number of gay and trans individuals who are from

rural areas and have migrated to the cities for work or study opportunities. However, future research would benefit greatly from a further exploration of rural vs urban spaces, and a critical interrogation of what constitutes urban and rural spaces in Nicaragua would be helpful context for this study.



Palacio Nacional, Managua, Nicaragua



Playa Mangos, Ometepe Island, Nicaragua

## MASTERS FIELD STUDY REPORTS

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**Miles Nowlin**, Masters Student, Latin America Studies, University of New Mexico

**Project:** El Caño Martín Peña: Roots of Land-Based, Intergenerational Struggle

### Abstract

As urban informal settlements face increasing threats of dispossession, residents and planners are looking to the Community Land Trust (CLT) model as a tool to promote community control and affordable housing preservation. The Caño Martín Peña Community Land Trust (CMP-CLT) in San Juan, Puerto Rico, was the first CLT designed from within an informal settlement in Latin America and has become a beacon model for similar land-based struggles. More research is needed to better understand the role community organizing can play in CLT/informal settlement developments, as a tool to strengthen and maintain community control over valuable urban land. Because community control is understood to be a vital principle of the CLT model, I argue that engaging a land-based community organizing praxis is an impactful tool to maintain and strengthen community control in CLT/informal settlement developments. In this qualitative case study, I demonstrate ways that leaders in the Caño Martín Peña Social Movement (CMP-SM) have designed a community organizing praxis, guided by land-based knowledge formations that place high value on intergenerational reproductive security. I reveal how the CMP-SM organizing praxis is facilitated by critical pedagogy and civic participation initiatives that promote conscientious local leaders as an intergenerational practice to maintain community control in perpetuity. I engage Marxist theory and transformative organizing theory to help understand how the production of capital works to threaten urban informal settlement stability and how the CMP-SM is organizing to resist such threats. This research contributes to an on-going conversation about what community control can look like through CLT/informal

settlement development that has been integrated with a land-based social movement for two decades. This research helps to broaden the on-going conversation about how community control is maintained and increased in CLT developments over time. My findings offer other CLT/Informal settlement developers, organizers and scholars insight into a case that models the vital role that land-based community organizing praxis can play in such developments.

### Expense Report

The funds from the CLAG Field study grant were on travel, room and board costs on an 18-field study to San Juan, Puerto Rico. Additional funds were raised to cover equipment costs and to pay research participants.

### Research

In recent decades, broad literature has been developed on the many strengths of Community Land Trusts (CLTs) as solutions to instabilities in urban informal settlements, including research relating to the Caño Martín Peña Community Land Trust (CMP-CLT) case in San Juan Puerto Rico. This case demonstrates a successful model for other CLT/informal settlements developments in the Global South, most notably, favelas of urban Brazil. More literature is warranted that addresses how community organizing functions within CLT/Informal settlement developments to promote community control. In my research I analyzed findings on the Caño Martín Peña Social Movement's (CMP-SM) organizing praxis, highlighting ways that this praxis centers land-based knowledge formations, embraces intergeneration practices, and is evolving amidst a new generation of youth leaders who came of age as participants in the Youth Leaders in Action (LIJAC) critical pedagogy program. From this research I wrote a professional paper which argues that engaging land-based community organizing is a vital tool to strengthen community control in CLT/informal settlement developments. The paper presents

findings from qualitative data I collected from local archives, participant observations and from interviews with community leaders which spotlight the CMP-SM's land-based community organizing praxis. I focused attention to the movement's intergenerational practices in critical pedagogy and civic participation, demonstrating how these practices have been instrumental in the promotion of an emerging generation of conscientious leaders. I explore ways that these new leaders are shifting organizing traditions in the movement by engaging new self-governance practices and asserting a collective critical voice that embodies de-colonial and anti-capitalist discourses and values. The paper presents a theoretical analysis of the social movement's organizing praxis illuminating its structural function as a tool for strengthening community control and spotlighting its potential as a guiding model for other CLT/informal settlement developments engaged in similar land-based struggles. This research helps to broaden the on-going conversation about how community control is maintained and increased in CLT developments over time. It also initiates new conversations on how community organizing in CLT/informal settlement developments serves to maintain and increase community control.

## Methods

In my field work I utilized qualitative methods that centered community leader voices as primary sources. In my archival work and fieldwork, I sought stories that reflected how land-based knowledge traverses and transforms across generations of residents, and how such knowledge has helped shape the CMP-SM's community organizing praxis. Storytelling is an integral component of CMP epistemology that functions as an education and mobilization tool shared broadly through the Raíces del Caño (Roots of the Canal) newspaper, media campaigns, video shorts, oral histories archives, and at community meetings/events. My investigation of the social movement story followed these methods.

Semi-structured interviews with internal and external movement leaders

Archival analysis of the Raíces del Caño newspapers, literature, video, governing documents, and oral histories publications

Participant observations of community meetings and events

## *Interviews*

During my 18-day visit to El Caño I conducted 14 semi-structured interviews with local leaders, ENLACE and Land Trust staff members, and external organizers. Interviewees were accessed through a gatekeeper who is a staff member at the CMP-CLT. This person directly connected me to some participants and welcomed me into community spaces, such as the CMP-CLT office and community events, where I engaged other interviewees. Nine of the interviews were video recorded, and interviews took place in varied locations like in homes, at a Land Trust-owned Park, and in the ENLACE/Land Trust office. All interviews were semi-structured around themes related to the following question: How have local ways of knowing and imaging land (land epistemology) impacted CMP-SM organizing praxis across generations? In most interviews, I asked participants to talk about their relationship to the communities, and to the land starting from their youth. I also gave special attention to themes of community organizing and youth critical pedagogy initiatives. Interviews ranged from 60 minutes to 90 minutes.

I conducted 11 interviews with two local community leaders from two different generational groups:

The senior group. The senior group included many who had participated in the CMP-SM since its inception in the early 2000s as community council members, activists, and G8 board members. These leaders were all over 50 y/o.

The emerging group. The younger leaders are under 30 y/o. The younger participants had all been

involved in the Young Leaders in Action (LIJAC), presently and/or in their youth. LIJAC is a leadership program for youth that engages them with critical pedagogy and civic participation.

I also spoke to some CMP-CLT staff members about their insights and experiences in the social movement. Of the 14 interviews, 3 were with external organizers who are not from the CMP barrio. These people included the LIJAC Coordinator, a former director of the CMP-CLT, and a lawyer/University Professor/community organizer. These individuals helped give insight into the technical functions of the movement and important historical content.

### *Participant Observation*

While in Puerto Rico, I observed multiple community events, where in some instances I took photos and video, and in others I observed and took notes. I attended a neighborhood meeting on the Maritime Development Zone, a participatory planning meeting revising the Master Development Plan, a youth critical pedagogy hip-hop workshop and a G8 board meeting. In this paper I discuss my observations of the LIJAC-led hip hop workshop that was co-facilitated by two of the young leaders I interviewed. Many of the leaders I interviewed participated in these activities, allowing me to observe the roles that they play on the ground.

### **Conclusion**

The CLAG Field Research Grant allowed me the chance to conduct important field research and also offered me the chance to build long-term solidarity relationships with community organizers from within El Caño. The CMP-SM strongly values international solidarity as a strategy to strengthen their movement for land tenure and environmental justice, and to support other movements through offering technical knowledge exchange. My contribution as a researcher and an international comrade with the CMP-SM goes beyond my

professional paper. In the months ahead I will offer a presentation of my work to the community members of El Caño and will design and deliver a dual-lingual zine to be shared with residents. I also captured extensive video footage of interviews and community events during my travel to be used in a future film project. In coming months, I will be seeking grant funds return to Puerto Rico and complete this documentary project. Furthermore, I plan to maintain my friendships with the El Caño leaders, and engage in future collaborations related to knowledge sharing, solidarity and research.

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**Lidiya Beida**, Masters Student, Geography, University of Toronto

**Project:** Urban entrepreneurs, rural conservationists: Shipibo-Konibo artisan livelihoods across the changing landscape in Ucayali River basin, Peruvian Amazon

### **Abstract**

This research explores livelihood dynamics of female Shipibo-Konibo artisans in the Peruvian Amazon, based on the field-based data collected between June and August 2022 in Peru's department of Ucayali, with the support of CLAG Student Field Study Grant. Despite centuries-long exposure to European colonizers and religious missions, the Shipibo-Konibo, the Indigenous group of the Ucayali River basin, have preserved their language, traditions and a vibrant material culture. Material culture in particular has in recent decades evolved into an important livelihood activity for many Shipibo-Konibo women. Indigenous artisans and their families harvest an array of non-timber forest products (NTFPs) that serve as raw materials for textiles, souvenirs and accessories. As old growth forest gets cleared away or degraded, it is becoming increasingly difficult to find around rural Shipibo-Konibo communities. With more young people seeking opportunities in the city, and with ongoing deforestation and biodiversity loss in Ucayali, there are concerns around the future of Indigenous cultural continuity and ethnobotanical knowledge. My MA thesis research seeks to provide

a better understanding of how indigenous women artisans are adapting to the changes around them.

**Key words:** female livelihoods, ethnobotanical knowledge, multi-sited households, livelihood resilience.



Shipibo-Konibo artisan in Yarinacocha at work, painting *kené* designs on a cotton cloth dip-dyed with mahogany

I arrived in Pucallpa, the Department's and largest city of the Ucayali region in June 2022. While my original plan was to split my time between one rural community and the city, talking with some Shipibo-Konibo artisans in Pucallpa made me realize how diverse rural communities of Ucayali are, and how important the connections between the countryside and the city are for women's livelihoods. After making some local connections, I decided to adjust my plans and focus on four sites that offered different perspectives on how multi-sited household arrangements work in artisan families, and how Shipibo-Konibo crafts and forest materials are transported, sold and shared between rural and urban areas, animating this livelihood. The CLAG Student Field Study Grant allowed me to hire an experienced field assistant, a Shipibo woman trained as a bilingual teacher, whose family members are also artisans. Together we interviewed 30 artisans in three rural communities and around Pucallpa.

The first community I visited was Limongema, located about an hour upstream along the Ucayali River from Pucallpa. Most women in Limongema, assisted by their partners and children, are involved in craftwork. An *ayahuasca* lodge was opened in

that community a few years ago by local resident. As a result, a continuous flow of international tourists created an opportunity to sell traditional textiles and souvenirs to the visitors. Through a government-led reforestation initiative, some Limongema residents have planted native hardwood species for their home gardens, including *huistiniti/pokoti* — mahogany (likely *Swietenia macrophylla*, although a few other species are also referred to by the same Shipibo names). Mahogany bark is one of the key ingredients of Shipibo material culture. A little goes a long way with mahogany dyes: when the exterior cortex is harvested carefully, the tree continues to grow, and the cortex can be subsequently re-harvested. Neighbors in Limongema often share cortices and ornamental seeds; others exchange seeds with friends and relatives from other communities.

Vista Alegre de Pachitea was the second rural community I visited. The village is located at the confluence of Pachitea and Ucayali rivers. During the dry season, the community is accessible from Pucallpa via dirt road - a journey that takes about 3 hours. The village still has some old growth forest nearby, although it is being rapidly fragmented by roads, pastures and agricultural fields. Being somewhat removed from the city, artisans in Vista Alegre have access to more artisanal materials in their home gardens, *chacras*, and the forest. On the other hand, the lack of tourist traffic makes it more difficult to sell their products. Some older women, like Marina, whom I first met in Pucallpa, split their lives between Vista Alegre, where her daughters and granddaughters produce textiles and handicrafts, and the city, where she sells their products on the street. When I asked Marina's family about the availability of mahogany and other plants used for textile dyes or seed handicrafts, they said that these materials are still present around the community, and that being able to make a living from their craft also motivated them to plant more of these species in their home gardens (such as *huayruro* - *Ormosia coccinea*), and to experiment with other plants, such as plantain leaves, in order to develop new techniques and reduce dependence on the tree cortices that cannot be harvested often.



Huayruro seeds (*Ormosia coccinea*), a popular handicraft material, are brought to Pucallpa by rural folk and are sold by kilogram

I made a couple of trips to San Francisco de Yarínacocha, a community well-known for artesanía, which has become a tourist destination in itself. With urban growth around Pucallpa, San Francisco has become a de facto peri-urban community. On a 90-minute journey from the city, one mostly sees villages which are separated by fields and camu-camu plantations. Some elderly artisans in San Francisco have memories from the times when the village was much smaller, and old growth forest was still present within a short walk from the community. Manuela, one of the oldest residents of San Francisco, told us that where her house now stands, old cedar and mahogany trees used to grow. She grew up watching her mother make ceramics using locally available tree cortexes and resins, which are mixed with clay to make pottery more resistant. When Manuela was still a child, around 80 years ago, she remembers centennial trees being cut down and sold to outsiders in exchange for cloth and iron pots, an unfair exchange that took advantage of Shipibo-Konibo's precarious socio-economic situation. While San Francisco today has a reputation of a vibrant, touristy village, and features an artisan fair and ceramic workshop, natural resources traditionally used for Shipibo-Konibo handicrafts have been largely depleted: artisans mentioned that they purchase most of the pigment-bearing cortexes and seeds

from vendors who bring these materials from different corners of Ucayali.

In Pucallpa, I spent some time with artisans at Maroti Shobo, a cooperative and an artisan fair in the district of Yarínacocha, which is frequented by Peruvian and foreign tourists. What made Maroti Shobo a particularly interesting study site was the fact that many of its members, who are all Shipibo-Konibo women, come from different regions of the Ucayali basin, and maintain a strong connection with their communities of origin, where their family members often harvest artisanal materials and produce handicrafts which are then transported to Pucallpa to be either transformed or sold at the cooperative marketplace. Moreover, women working at the cooperative are in a significantly less precarious socioeconomic situation compared to the many street handicraft vendors, who lack economic stability and safety. Artisans at Maroti Shobo, recognizing these inequalities, offer support to fellow artisans who may be going through a difficult time by buying their products to then resell them at the marketplace.

The handicraft economy in Ucayali is a predominantly female activity that is often not taken seriously because of its seemingly marginal economic output. However, this livelihood reveals the entanglements of rich economic support and material networks that span the entire Ucayali River basin, and the broader understanding of how the Shipibo-Konibo are adapting to the changing economic and ecological landscape in the region.



Resting under a shiringa (*Hevea brasiliensis*) tree near lake Yarínacocha. Shiringa



Chatting with one of the oldest artisans of San Francisco, Ucayali

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**Andrea Pimentel Rivera**, Masters Student,  
Department of Geography and GIS, University of  
Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

**Project:** Opposing powers at the helm and the  
im/mobilities of the maritime transportation in  
Vieques, Puerto Rico

**Abstract:** Following recent calls for decolonial  
perspectives within transportation geography that  
argue towards three interrelated shifts in siting,  
epistemological, and empirical approaches, this  
thesis research seeks to expand existing scholarship  
that examines transportation policies beyond  
techno-social issues through framing the deficient  
passenger ferry service of Vieques, Puerto Rico as a  
mobility injustice. The thesis takes on a qualitative  
case study design in looking at the coloniality  
behind governance practices for the maritime  
transportation service in Vieques, Puerto Rico. The  
island of Vieques is one of two municipalities in

Puerto Rico that is entirely reliant on a ferry service that was recently privatized under contested terms. I have used two main methods of inquiry: a materials analysis approach looking at the twenty years in which the Maritime Transportation Authority was the main institutional actor in charge of administering the ferry until the service became privatized with HMS Ferries. Such materials include laws, passed and unpassed legislation, transportation plans, and grant proposals. Secondly, ethnographic methods of participant observations and interviews were used to note recent changes with privatization and the experiences of ferry advocates in the decision-making processes of the service. Overall, I argue that the coloniality within the power and politics surrounding the governance of infrastructures of mobility, such as the ferry, affects lived experiences, which are in turn shaped by broader processes that produce immobilities in Puerto Rico. This also reifies existing environmental injustices from Vieques' militarized colonial past, turning issues of lack of access to healthcare into mobility injustices.

**Keywords:** Critical transportation geography,  
mobility justice, Vieques, ferries

*All photographs were taken by Gabriel Cruz -  
<https://gabrielocruz.com/>*



involves a lengthy walk from the parking lot to the pier with inadequate facilities and no help from sailors, resulting in dangerous transit.

During my ethnographic work, I traveled to Vieques each week to conduct observations within the ferry and interview the key informants on the island. I would occasionally speak to passengers, such as Doña María pictured above, who had returned to Vieques after staying with her children on the main island. She shared with me how it has gotten harder to travel within the main island after público prices increased ever since the ferry terminal was moved to Ceiba in 2018.



Ever since the ferry terminal on the main island was moved to the former Roosevelt Roads Naval base, passengers face a complicated boarding process that

## OPPORTUNITIES

### GRANT AND CALL FOR FUNDED PHD STUDENT POSITION:

2022 NSF Grant “Build and Broaden: Geographies of Migration and (In)Security” – PI - Sarah Blue (TXST), Co-PIs – Jennifer Devine (TXST), Marie Price (GWU), Elizabeth Chacko (GWU), Caroline Miles (UTRGV), Carla Angulo-Pasel (UTRGV)

#### **Ph.D. Opportunity: Geographies of Migration and Insecurity at the US-Mexican Border**

We are seeking a Ph.D. student to join the Texas State University’s Department of Geography and Environmental Studies to work on an NSF funded project focusing on issues of migration, asylum/immigration policy, infrastructure, and security at the US-Mexican border. The NSF funded project includes three years of full funding (including funded summer research) beginning in Fall 2023. One year of additional funding as a graduate assistant is available upon completion of qualifying exams. The Ph.D. student will be supervised by Drs. Sarah Blue and Jennifer Devine and will join a highly collaborative, multi-institutional research team partnering with University of Texas – Rio Grande Valley and George Washington University. We welcome students with a strong commitment to social and environmental justice. Underrepresented groups are strongly encouraged to apply.

Required skills for the position:

- Research experience/interest in migration studies, border studies, political geography, critical security studies, and feminist geography and geo-politics
- Fluency in Spanish
- Willingness to conduct qualitative research at the US-Mexican border
- Enthusiasm, timeliness, reliability
- Experience and/or interest in mentoring
- Ability to work independently
- Preferred skills for the position:

Intermediate skills in GIS and/or geo-visualization

- Training and experience using qualitative methods

The doctoral student will contribute to research examining how changing asylum policies have impacted migration practices and patterns, as well as migrants’ journeys to the US border. The project also seeks to understand how changing policies have transformed the physical landscapes and infrastructure of the US-Mexican border through practices of securitization and border fortification. Lastly, the project aims to understand how changing migration policy and securitization of the border increases migrant vulnerability and empowers organized crime.

If you are interested in this position, please submit a ½ page letter describing how you fit the position along with a CV to Sarah Blue (sblue@txstate.edu) and Jennifer Devine (devine@txstate.edu). Contact Drs. Blue and Devine with any questions about the position. The application deadline for the position is March 1, 2023. Texas State University is a Hispanic Serving Institution located in San Marcos, Texas, and is home to more than 38,000 students and 2,000 faculty members in the growing Austin-San Antonio corridor.

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#### **Investigación Acción Participativa para co-crear trayectorias de transformación sobre el agua - Convocatoria postdoctoral - 2023**

¿Te interesa diseñar y poner en práctica procesos que fomenten transformaciones sostenibles? ¿Sientes curiosidad por las herramientas y métodos participativos creativos para comprometerte con diversas comunidades de práctica? ¿Te gustaría formar parte de un equipo internacional dedicado a compartir aprendizajes sobre Investigación Acción Participativa en diversos humedales del planeta?

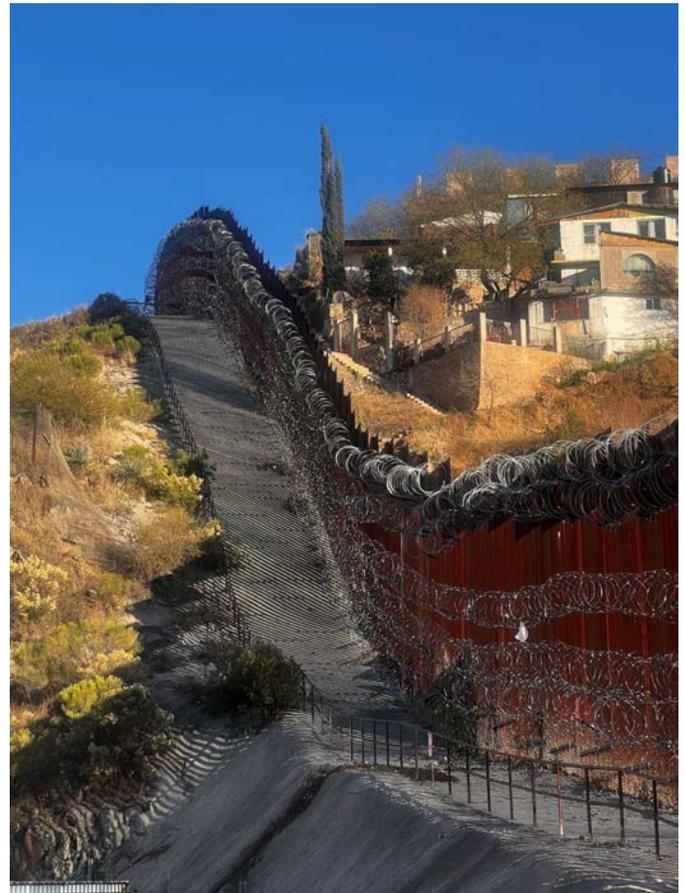
En el marco del proyecto *Water Transformation Pathways Planning* ([Trans-Path-Plan](#)),

financiado por el Programa de Cooperación sobre Agua y Desarrollo ([the Water and Development Partnership Programme](#)), un consorcio internacional recientemente constituido, se adentrará en el ámbito de la planeación de trayectorias de transformación en el sector del agua.

El nodo de la Ciudad de México está coordinado por el Laboratorio Nacional de Ciencias de la Sostenibilidad ([LANCIS](#)) del Instituto de Ecología-UNAM ([IE-UNAM](#)), la Universidad de Arizona-USA ([UofA](#)), y la ONG Umbela Transformaciones Sostenibles ([Umbela](#)). Trabajaremos en el humedal de Xochimilco, un sistema socio-ecológico con un agro-ecosistema altamente productivo, y en su área periurbana, para explorar la diversidad de intereses, necesidades y tensiones, y así entender cómo los esquemas institucionales y de gobernanza determinan ciertos discursos y narrativas en torno a la planeación sostenible. El área de nuestro proyecto incluye el territorio, el agua y las personas que interactúan con la subcuenca que drena hacia el humedal de Xochimilco, considerado Patrimonio de la Humanidad por la UNESCO. Nos acercaremos a varios lugares específicos de este ámbito espacial de interés para co-construir trayectorias de transformación con la población, las organizaciones y las comunidades locales.

Postular enviando la información solicitada en un solo archivo en pdf al correo: [lakshmi.charli@iecologia.unam.mx](mailto:lakshmi.charli@iecologia.unam.mx) (poner en el asunto “Solicitud Convocatoria Trans-Path-Plan”), antes del 3 de febrero del 2023.

Información solicitada para la candidatura:  
Breve CV que incluya: Semblanza (de 1 párrafo); Datos de contacto y personales (nacionalidad, edad); Títulos escolares y otros cursos relevantes completados; Experiencia laboral (si aplica); Publicaciones que apoyen la candidatura; Conocimientos de idioma(s). Datos de contacto de 2 referencias. Carta de recomendación (de máx. 1 página). Carta de motivos (de máx. 2 páginas) que incluya: Por qué te interesa el proyecto anunciado (máx. 1 página); Qué te hace un(a) candidato(a) idóneo(a) según tu experiencia de trabajo en procesos participativos (máx. 1 página).

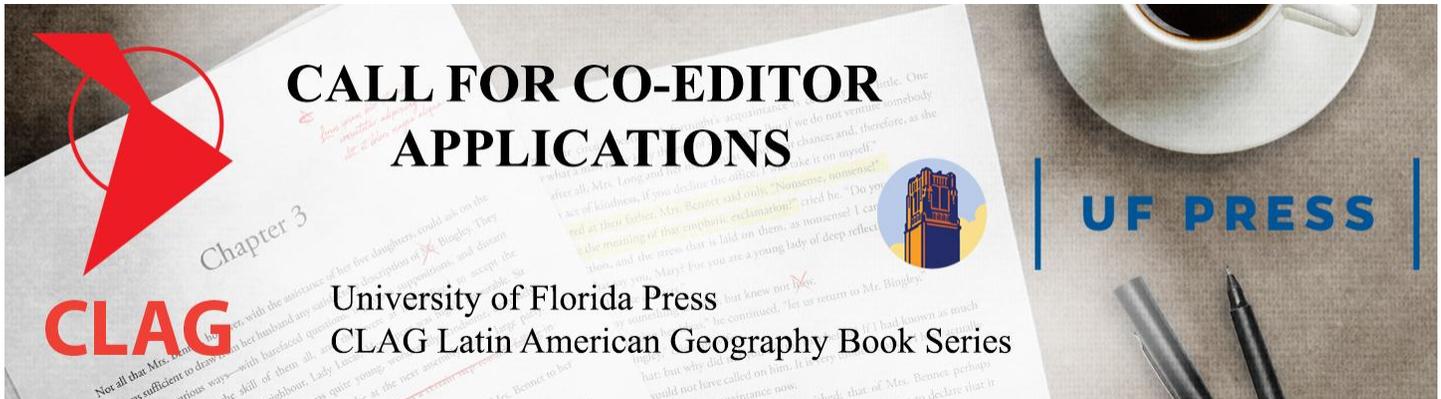


**Border wall at Nogales, Arizona, 2023 CLAG Field Trip**

# CLAG LATIN AMERICAN GEOGRAPHY BOOK SERIES

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA PRESS

CALL FOR CO-EDITOR APPLICATIONS



The CLAG Latin American Geography book series will explore Latin America and the Caribbean through the multiple lenses of geography: environment, land, people, history, economy, and politics. The books in this series present Latin America in its broadest conceptualization. Latin America *is* where Latin Americans *are*, but it is also a region with identifiable characteristics, things that separate it from not-Latin America. The CLAG/UFP Latin American Geography Book Series will be open to proposals from those who self-identify as geographers who focus on Latin America, and who develop projects that resonate with the spirit of the series.

The series will be a high-quality outlet for scholars who are writing a first book, coauthors working collaboratively, editors producing an edited volume, and senior scholars cogitating a final monograph. The CLAG/UFP Latin American Geography Book Series will promote rigorous scientific research related to geographical, environmental, cultural, economic, political, and urban research focused on Latin America. The series aims to raise the profile of Latin American and Caribbean geography, showcasing important works focusing on the region. The book series targets scholars, researchers, students, and everyone interested in the places, peoples, environments, and dynamics of Latin America and the Caribbean. The series is organized along the following thematic lines:

- Frontiers/Mobilities** - The USA/Mexico border is frequently taken as a defining element of Latin America, its northern boundary, its episteme. In addition to this iconic boundary, this series recognizes the tens of thousands of kilometers of international borders in Latin America. We recognize the porosities of borders, their contingency, and the specific sets of problems they manifest. This editorial track will source books that deal with borders of all kinds and the mobilities they enable or limit. These projects can include remote borderlands where contestations over logging, mining, and road building impinge upon indigenous protected areas in dual-country reserves, to the informal borders between *morros* and *asfalto* in cities, to transportation networks, migration patterns, and the movement and stasis implicit in infrastructure, transportation, and exchange of goods and services.

- **Urban/Rural Continuums** – Latin America has remained the most rapidly urbanizing region (as a percentage of the population) for several decades. One element of this track will examine urbanization dynamics in Latin America, while another will deal with smaller cities and rural dynamics. The attention given to Latin America’s largest cities has skewed scholarship away from the emerging dynamics of smaller cities in the interior, along rivers, and in resource extraction centers. While we continue to look for scholars who pursue the geographies of large urban centers, by combining these narratives with lesser-studied places, we will create an outlet for scholarship that literally decenters the metropolitan gaze.
- **Ecology, Environment, Energy** –Some of the most dynamic and important work historically emerging from CLAG scholars has been in the field of political ecology. “Political ecology” is an encumbered designation that this track seeks to alleviate by opening space for scholarship in biogeography, environment (including ethnobotany, geomorphology, sustainability), and energy (including global political economy and environmental justice). **Co-editor: Joel Correia, Colorado State University**
- **Caribbean Geography** – The Caribbean is frequently neglected in conceptions of Latin America yet is quite obviously deeply connected to the histories, movements, economies, and trajectories of the region. This track of the CLAG/UFPP book series will allow authors to focus more specifically on dynamics within the Caribbean while attending to the broad themes outlined above. As CLAG becomes ever more diverse in its topics, approaches, and membership this track of the book series will allow for a renewed engagement with the Caribbean.

**CLAG is seeking applications to fill three co-editorships for two-year terms to begin in February 2023.**

Series Editors will promote the series and recruit book projects relevant to ongoing debates about Latin American geography with a focus on emergent topics, novel approaches, and new voices. Series Editors will work directly with the Acquisitions Editor at the University of Florida Press to review letters of inquiry and proposals for projects under consideration for the Series. Series Editors will identify projects requiring further development and may work directly with authors to strengthen manuscripts. In partnership with the Acquisitions Editor, the Series Editors will determine which projects to recommend for inclusion in the Series. The Acquisitions Editor will coordinate and manage the peer review process, with advisement from the Series Editors. At least one Series Editor will provide an official review for each manuscript under consideration for the Series. For each book reviewed UFP offers remuneration, and for published works actively acquired or developed by the Series Editor, offers a percentage of sales.

Please send letters of interest and CV to: Christopher Gaffney, Chair, CLAG Publications Committee  
cg151@nyu.edu.

## CONFERENCES AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

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### **MPCS2022: WORKSHOP MAPEAMENTO PARTICIPATIVO E CARTOGRAFIA SOCIAL 2022 / TALLER MAPEO PARTICIPATIVO Y CARTOGRAFÍA SOCIAL 2022**

ORGANIZADORA: DRA. RAQUEL DEZIDÉRIO SOUTO

INSTITUTO VIRTUAL PARA O DESENVOLVIMENTO SUSTENTÁVEL - [IVIDES.ORG](http://IVIDES.ORG); LABORATÓRIO DE CARTOGRAFIA (GEOCART), DEPARTAMENTO DE GEOGRAFIA, INSTITUTO DE GEOCIÊNCIAS, UNIVERSIDADE FEDERAL DO RIO DE JANEIRO (UFRJ).

7 DEZ E 14 DEZ 2022 (RECORDINGS AVAILABLE):

[HTTPS://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/C/IVIDES](https://www.youtube.com/c/IVIDES)

[HTTP://MPCS2022.IVIDES.ORG](http://MPCS2022.IVIDES.ORG)

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### **WEBINAR INTERNACIONAL: "MAPEO PARTICIPATIVO: ACTIVISMO URBANO SOCIAL EN AMÉRICA LATINA."**

June 16, 2022 (Virtual Recordings Available):

<https://www.facebook.com/100063910217457/videos/348217240727846>

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## NOTE FROM THE CLAG NEWSLETTER CO-EDITORS

Greetings, CLAGistas! It is our pleasure to serve in our new role as the newsletter co-editors. We would like to thank Jennifer Devine for her previous service in this role as well as her support and guidance as she helps us navigate this new and exciting opportunity. We look forward to using this opportunity as a way to further connect with our marvelous community.

Being our first newsletter, it has already been a pleasure to work with you all and receive your amazing collections of work and news. Thank you for all of the submission contributions and the patience as we put together our first newsletter. We look forward to continuing to learn about everyone's exciting research and events over the next two years. Remember to reach out whenever you have something to share with the community to be included in a newsletter! Thank you all!

Saludos,  
Beth and Elise  
CLAG Newsletter Co-Editors



